

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

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Contact Person

Peter M. Jarosz
Assistant U.S. Attorney

OSCEOLA MAN FACES CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Madison returned an indictment yesterday charging Jason M. Pape, 37, of Osceola, Wis., with possession of three computer hard drives and a thumb drive which contained visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

If convicted, Pape faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The charges against him are the result of an investigation conducted by the New Richmond Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department, and the Polk County Sheriff's Office. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter M. Jarosz.

This case has been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the

Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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